



BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1965

ELLIS TAYLOR :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME :

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1965

ELLIS TAYLOR :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME :

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*THE MAYOR (Councillor G. K. BROWN, J.P.) *ex-officio*

Chairman: *Councillor H. BRINDLE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: *Alderman J. A. DEAN

Members:

Alderman J. BROOKS
 *Alderman J. W. GEERE, J.P., C.A.
 Alderman W. WELSBY
 *Councillor W. HARDMAN
 Councillor J. HARDY (Miss)
 Councillor L. HASLAM
 *Councillor W. B. MORT
 *Councillor J. G. SEDDON
 Councillor S. STOUT
 Councillor J. WILD

*Members of Sub-Committee

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

ELLIS TAYLOR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

C. L. GARSIDE, M.A.P.H.I.

A. CASHMORE, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 10/3/65).

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. TUNSTALL

Clerks:

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR.

Miss C. L. BAXENDALE.

STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area	1,504 statute acres
Population	26,770 Estimated mid-1965 27,474 Census 1961
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1931	7,104
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1961	9,119
Number of Inhabited Houses, Estimated 1965	9,426
Rateable Value	£733,358
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£2,900

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1965.

Throughout the year the Department has been reasonably well staffed and much constructive work was accomplished.

Last year I expressed pleasure at the activity of the Department in slum clearance. Following a Public Inquiry the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Corporation's proposals for clearance and compulsory purchase but to date there is little evidence of practical implementation of this achievement. It is hoped that re-housing will not be too long delayed.

I acknowledge the help and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department.

ELLIS TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1965

BIRTHS:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	253	250	503
Illegitimate	20	17	37
TOTAL	<u>273</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>540</u>

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
TOTAL	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>

	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	22.2	18.1
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births	14.6	15.7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	1	—	1
TOTAL	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births)	20.4	19.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
(Per 1,000 total births)	21.9	26.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:		
(Per 1,000 total births)	Nil	0.25

DEATH RATE:		
(Per 1,000 population)	13.3	11.5

The vital statistics for the year continued the more satisfactory trend of last year. Although the trickle of population away from the Borough continued, there was a marked increase in the number of births and a similar number of deaths as compared with 1964. The national upward trend in the number of illegitimate births was reflected locally—almost 7 per cent. of all births. Even with the higher birth rate, there were only two additional infant deaths recorded compared with last year's satisfactory total and the rate is only fractionally higher than the national figure. In assessing the loss of infant life one must take into account those infants who are stillborn—the perinatal rate is an index of this and the Borough rate of 21.9 compares exceptionally favourably with the national figure of 26.9. Having in mind the difficult environmental conditions that many parents have to contend with, this would seem to me to be no small achievement.

The causes of death of the eleven children under one year of age is shown below :

Causes of death	Age at Death					Totals
	Under 1 day	1 day and less than 7 days	1 week and less than 4 weeks	4 weeks and less than 6 months	6 months and less than 12 months	
Congenital abnormalities	1	2	—	1	1	5
Prematurity	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	2	—	2
Accidental	—	—	—	2	1	3
Totals	1	3	—	5	2	11

Perusal of the causes of death in Table 1 reveals that as usual one half of all deaths were caused by diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and one sixth by cancer and one sixth by respiratory disease.

The main causes of deaths for the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Cause of Death	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Bronchitis	18	25	34	26	19	35	39	28	28	24
Pneumonia	13	10	22	33	12	19	34	27	15	31
Heart Disease	91 (48)	121 (64)	134 (55)	98 (53)	109 (59)	127 (76)	127 (85)	106 (59)	116 (73)	102 (60)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	52	46	57	61	65	72	82	58	56	73
Cancer	51 (9)	56 (15)	66 (11)	63 (18)	57 (14)	80 (17)	52 (9)	58 (10)	72 (22)	68 (21)

The figures in brackets denote the deaths due to coronary disease and those due to lung cancer.

The causes of death in all ages in 1965 are shown in Table 1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The usual biennial swing of measles appeared to be becoming less obvious and only 181 cases were notified. The disease appeared to be mild with few complications. Scarlet fever became rather more prevalent but this illness no longer has the significance of yesteryear. Two cases of paratyphoid were notified. These were members of one family who had been on holiday in the Fylde and had apparently drunk infected untreated milk. One member was engaged in the food trade and was excluded from work until the bowel infection cleared.

Details of cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in Table 2.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND HEALTH

The town continued to be well served by many active voluntary bodies concerned with improving and maintaining the health and happiness of the community. They have all extended and consolidated their services and deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Corporation on behalf of the townsfolk.

TABLE 1.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1965

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years							75 and over	
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	6	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	5	1
	F	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	6	11	1
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diabetes	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	11	13
	F	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	13	9	4
	F	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	11	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	3
	F	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	7	18

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1965 (continued)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years							75 and over	
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-
Other Circulatory Disease	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	7	
Pneumonia	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	14	
Bronchitis	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F	24	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	5	16	
	M	19	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	4	8	
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congenital Malformations	M	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	
	M	9	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	4	7	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	M	2	3	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	
All Other Accidents	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Suicide	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Total All Causes	M	192	2	4	2	3	11	20	42	53	51		
	F	218	2	3	1	1	5	11	23	58	114		

TABLE 2.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1965

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS								
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25 & over
Scarlet Fever	33	—	1	—	4	7	21	—	—	—
Whooping cough	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	181	4	33	33	29	40	40	2	—	—
Diphtheria	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		0—	5—	15—	45—	65 & over				
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	4	2	—	1	1	—				
Smallpox	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Acute encephalitis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Enteric or typhoid fever	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Paratyphoid fever	2	—	1	1	—	—				
Erysipelas	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Food poisoning	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	4	—	—	1	2	1				
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Other	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	1	—	—				

HOUSING

About half the town's 9,500 houses are less than fifty years old and are of satisfactory standard. They include about 3,400 Corporation houses. A second group, of 2,000 or so older but well-built terraced houses, mostly owner-occupied, are in some cases lacking in modern amenities but otherwise provide a reasonable standard of accommodation. The remaining group consists of about 2,500 terraced cottages up to a hundred or more years' old, built to house the influx of population which occurred in the period of industrial expansion between 1850 and 1900.

This last group gives the Department most of its housing work. It consists of houses which are almost all defective in some way or other. Structural defects, disrepair and dampness are common, many of the houses are small and cramped, and few have modern amenities. This group of houses will provide material for clearance schemes for years to come.

Although we would like to see an early end to these obsolescent houses the simple truth is that clearance schemes are not accomplished overnight, and as long as the houses remain, conditions have to be made as decent as possible for the families who live in them. In the year under review nearly 800 visits were made to these houses by the Public Health Inspectors for the purpose of enforcing repair notices served under the Public Health Acts. Due to clearance schemes and an increasing number of owner-occupiers the number of notices served is diminishing, but the work continues to take up a large part of the Inspectors' time. Every effort is made to get essential repairs done within a reasonable time, using informal means rather than by issuing Statutory Notices. Delay does sometimes occur, but this is often the fault of property-repairers rather than landlords. The building trade is naturally reluctant to take on small, unrewarding repair jobs when more attractive and lucrative work is available. The cost of house repairs continues to rise steadily. The price of one hour of a property-repairer's time is now almost equivalent to the net weekly rent of a small cottage.

Four small clearance areas were inspected and submitted for approval by the Council during the year, involving altogether 33 houses. Although this is slower progress than in the previous two years, the average rate of clearance representation over the three years is slightly in advance of the target figure of 70 houses a year which was set in 1962. Despite the low figure for 1965 there is some satisfaction in having achieved, since 1962, a rate of clearance representation very much better than in earlier years.

It is disappointing, however, to have to report that Council-house building has not kept pace with clearance representation. In the six years since January, 1960, a period in which 466 houses were put forward for clearance, only 290 houses have been built by the Corporation. The inevitable result was that at the end of 1965 many families were living in houses officially condemned as unfit for habitation, in some cases up to three years previously. Unless replacement houses can be made available at a quicker rate, the clearance target of 70 houses a year set in 1962 for the ten years to 1972 will have to be reduced.

A further disappointment is the slow progress made in re-developing clearance areas. On the Crompton Street clearance site, where demolition of 136 houses was completed in February 1964, re-building did not begin until well into 1965 and none of the replacement houses were finished by the end of the year. It was reported last year that an official Inquiry into the Council's proposals for comprehensive re-development in the Glynne Street—Gower Street Clearance Area took place in September, 1964. The results of this Inquiry were made known in March, 1965, when the proposals were confirmed and the way made clear for the acquisition and demolition of some 200 houses. Demolition had started in November 1964, but at the end of 1965 the bulk of the houses were still occupied and there were no firm plans for the intended redevelopment.

A block of 26 flatlets built by the Council at Harper Green was opened during the year. These flatlets, designed for aged or infirm people, offer self-contained living accommodation with communal recreational facilities and a resident warden on call. The scheme is proving to be a successful way of providing for those who, whilst unable to manage in homes of their own, are not in need of full-time care in hostel accommodation.

The growing interest in private housing development in the Borough was remarked upon last year and continued in 1965. In the last five years 180 houses have been built by private developers, including 48 in the year under review, and at the end of the year building was in progress on several sites and plans had been approved for further development in various parts of the town. New Building Regulations, which replace existing Byelaws, were issued during the year, coming into effect from February, 1966. The Regulations modify and amend the law concerning the construction of buildings and the use of materials. They contain several new provisions relating to ventilation, heating, drainage and the prevention of dampness.

Referring again to the second group of houses mentioned at the beginning of this section of the Report, it would be wrong to miss the opportunity of expressing the hope that owners will come forward in increasing numbers to take advantage of the financial assistance available to them for providing modern amenities in these older but sound houses. A mobile exhibition publicising Housing Improvement Grants was held during the year and it is intended that further publicity will be arranged in the future. The Council has the power, within certain limitations, to compel owners of tenanted houses to provide baths, hot water systems and other facilities, but if wider use of existing voluntary arrangements can be encouraged compulsion may not be needed.

In last year's report reference was made to the Council's policy of acquiring old cottage-type houses, many of which will be due for clearance in the near future. These houses are often not worth improving, but the better ones will remain in use for a number of years and in these the provision of baths, hot water and other amenities should be seriously considered.

Housing statistics are given in Tables 3 and 4.

TABLE 3

1. Number of new dwellings erected during the year :

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority	22	12
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	44	4

2. Total No. of dwellings owned by any local authority existing in district at end of year	3620
---	------

3. Inspections of dwellings during the year :—

(i) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	450
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1340
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	200
(ii) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	229
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	117

4. Houses Demolished :—

	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families	
Houses Demolished :—			
In or Adjoining Clearance Areas :			
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	21	22	11
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil		
(iii) Houses on land acquired under S.43(2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil		
Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas :			
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act, 1957	7	13	4
(v) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	1		
(vi) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil		
(vii) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil		

5. Unfit Houses Closed :—	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families	
(i) Under S.16(4), S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act, 1957, and S.26, Housing Act, 1961	Nil	}	Nil
(ii) Under S.17(3) and S.26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		Nil
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

6. Unfit Houses Made Fit :—	Number
(i) By owner after informal action by local authority	240
(ii) After Formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957—	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	1
(iv) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.21, Housing Act, 1961	Nil
(v) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(vi) After determination of a closing order under S.27, Housing Act, 1961	Nil

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Position at end of year :		
(i) Retained for temporary accom- modation		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under S.17(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under S.46	Nil	Nil
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53	Nil	—

	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :— Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	7	31
9. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958— Improvement grants, etc.:— Action during year :	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of— Private bodies Local or individuals Authority	
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	7	_____
(ii) Approved by local authority	7	_____
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(v) Work completed	7	Nil
(vi) Additional separate dwellings in- cluded in (v) above	Nil	Nil
10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants :— Action during year :	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected	
(i) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to		
(a) full standard		39
(b) reduced standard		Nil
(ii) Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to		
(a) full standard		39
(b) reduced standard		Nil
(iii) Work completed		39

TABLE 4.

BUILDING	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
By Local Authority															
Houses	38	75	64	156	102	39	98	34	—	24	106	22	39	53	22
Flats	—	—	20	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	12
By Private Builders															
Houses	—	5	9	1	2	2	10	4	1	6	58	57	8	9	44
Flats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Houses Demolished	—	—	9	—	13	—	4	71	3	75	32	55	102	28	29
Closing Orders	—	—	1	—	6	5	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—

CARAVANS

As in past years, itinerant caravan dwellers have again been a source of trouble. On fourteen separate occasions they settled in the town, camping on one or other of three sites, giving rise to complaints from neighbouring residents and generally causing nuisance. Each time the caravan owners were visited repeatedly and warned that they would be removed if they did not leave. In four instances these warnings had to be followed up by action, requiring the joint efforts of the Highways Department vehicles and staff, the Police, the landowners and the Public Health Inspectors. Until the open spaces used by these itinerants are built on or made inaccessible, it is likely that this problem will remain. Fortunately there is every prospect that development will take place on at least two of the sites in the near future and this should improve matters. The possibilities of setting up proper caravan sites for these people are still being considered by the County Council.

As usual, showmen's caravans, which have for many years been allowed in Farnworth, occupied a number of sites during the winter months. They gave little trouble, but it is becoming necessary to consider seriously whether the sanitary arrangements on these sites can continue to be accepted. It is hoped that a way will soon be found to provide better facilities than the pail closets at present being used.

CLEAN AIR

The threat of shortages of domestic smokeless fuels, forecast by the Government in 1963, continued to deter local authorities during the early part of the year from starting new smoke control schemes. Later in the year, however, the fuel situation improved and in August the Borough Council decided to go ahead with the Plodder Lane (South) Smoke Control Area, which had been agreed to in 1963 but was deferred because of the threatened fuel shortage. By the end of the year good progress had been made in doing a fresh survey of properties in the proposed area, and it should be possible to report next year that the necessary Smoke Control Order has been made and confirmed and will come into operation in 1967. Now that a positive start on smoke control has been made it is hoped that progress towards the ultimate aim of having Smoke Control Orders covering the whole town will continue without interruption.

Because of the five-year delay in starting on the Smoke Control Programme, the timing of the programme will have to be revised. It may also be found necessary to alter the pattern of the programme; for example, it may be better to have smoke control earlier than planned in areas where new building development is in progress, thus ensuring that such areas can be smoke-controlled from the outset.

The spread of domestic smoke control throughout the country (nearly three million houses are now covered, including a quarter of the houses in the North-West "black" areas) is having its effect on traditional methods of house-warming. The open fire is losing ground to other forms of heating, perhaps less cheery but certainly more efficient. This trend is in line with the findings of the Parker Morris Committee's report on the design and equipment of houses, submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1961. The Committee concluded that better heating is the key to design, and that it should be recognised that a home without good heating is a home built to the standards of a bygone age.

The character of industry in Farnworth has changed greatly in the last decade. When the Clean Air Act was passed ten years ago there were twenty or more sizeable textile manufacturing concerns in the town. Today, most of these mills have either been taken over by other industries or pulled down, and textile manufacture has largely been replaced by carpet making, mail order merchandising, engineering, warehousing, clothing and fashion manufacture, and a variety of service trades. Electricity has replaced steam as the source of power, and the days of steam-driven machinery are gone. The last factory steam-engine in the town was broken up during the year—a timely if somewhat sad end to a fine example of the engineering skill of our forbears—marking the closing of a chapter in the story of local industrial development. These changes have produced a situation in which the factory chimneys which used to seriously pollute the air with smoke no longer do so. The chimneys still in use are now serving furnaces which have mostly been modernised or adapted to operate smokelessly under normal working conditions.

Five applications were received during the year for prior approval of proposals to instal new or modify existing boiler plant. In no case was any objection raised to the proposed installations, but in two instances where the proposed chimneys were considered to be not sufficiently high, representations were made to the applicants and agreement was reached to have the chimneys made higher. This question of chimney heights is sometimes difficult, especially where architectural aspect is important. A conspicuous tall chimney can spoil the symmetry of a modern building, and there is a tendency for effective dispersal of fumes into the atmosphere to be regarded as secondary to architectural appearance.

Daily measurements of air pollution have been taken throughout the year at two locations in the Borough. The monthly averages of these readings are given in Table 5, along with the figures for previous years. This work is made possible by the South-East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee for the investigation of atmospheric pollution, a group representing 29 local authorities, including Farnworth, which provides the necessary equipment.

TABLE 5.
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SMOKE AND SULPHUR
MEASURED BY VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENTS

PERIOD			Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air			
			Smoke		Sulphur	
			Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road
Month January	1960		566	520	458	332
Month February	1960		453	410	375	323
Month March	1960		270	270	317	237
Month April	1960		263	238	254	197
Month May	1960		190	220	200	223
Month June	1960		100	140	160	117
Month July	1960		118	102	111	90
Month August	1960		170	166	123	130
Month September	1960		237	261	180	166
Month October	1960		389	420	310	304
Month November	1960		450	392	348	318
Month December	1960		670	616	474	480
Year Jan—Dec.	1960		323	306	276	242
Month January	1961		480	504	366	389
Month February	1961		340	341	287	232
Month March	1961		350	320	294	243
Month April	1961		265	258	225	234
Month May	1961		186	188	174	194
Month June	1961		108	124	128	134
Month July	1961		99	107	92	108
Month August	1961		114	117	125	132
Month September	1961		188	179	124	180
Month October	1961		253	252	200	230
Month November	1961	N.A.	484		N.A.	525
Month December	1961		848	820	1113	1063
Year Jan—Dec.	1961		295	308	277	309
Month January	1962		472	324	541	563
Month February	1962		512	500	293	443
Month March	1962		444	620	471	626
Month April	1962		296	300	284	260
Month May	1962		108	188	165	240
Month June	1962		136	140	234	211
Month July	1962		132	200	158	253
Month August	1962		188	116	190	190
Month September	1962		272	220	267	264
Month October	1962		408	384	376	394
Month November	1962		604	528	647	506
Month December	1962		636	560	758	684
Year Jan—Dec.	1962		351	340	365	386
Month January	1963		592	716	743	839
Month February	1963		448	480	475	456
Month March	1963		384	358	393	326
Month April	1963		288	340	296	307
Month May	1963		124	192	216	189
Month June	1963		96	64	110	96
Month July	1963		136	72	100	82
Month August	1963		112	92	133	83
Month September	1963		204	252	241	185
Month October	1963		246	180	241	155
Month November	1963		328	324	313	256
Month December	1963		346	460	369	449
Year Jan—Dec.	1963		275	294	302	285

N.A. No figures available.

TABLE 5. (continued)

PERIOD		Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air			
		Smoke		Sulphur	
		Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road
Month January	1964	440	546	458	343
Month February	1964	315	325	355	300
Month March	1964	270	335	319	311
Month April	1964	169	202	206	189
Month May	1964	115	90	146	125
Month June	1964	101	126	149	110
Month July	1964	N.A.	81	N.A.	114
		Town Hall		Town Hall	
Month August	1964	104	91	71	106
Month September	1954	116	132	128	115
Month October	1964	359	322	281	263
Month November	1964	316	402	302	267
Month December	1964	447	431	345	387
Year Jan—Dec.	1964	250	257	251	219
Month January	1965	292	297	258	196
Month February	1965	295	313	282	185
Month March	1965	268	267	300	201
Month April	1965	177	165	150	116
Month May	1965	121	93	128	87
Month June	1965	62	60	75	85
Month July	1965	59	72	36	73
Month August	1965	71	85	72	107
Month September	1965	136	142	161	170
Month October	1965	237	245	205	296
Month November	1965	266	303	224	258
Month December	1965	264	275	184	151
Year Jan—Dec.	1955	187	193	173	160

N.A. No figures available.

FOOD

1965 can be regarded as a year of progress in the food hygiene section of the Department. Ever since the first Food Hygiene Regulations came into force in 1955, marking a significant step forward in giving local authorities the necessary powers to enforce good standards of hygiene in food premises, there has been a need to make a thorough-going survey of all the food premises in the town, firstly to get an accurate picture of the number and type of food businesses in existence, and secondly to find out what standards are being kept in these premises and how far they fall short of the requirements of the Regulations. To be of value such a survey would have to be comprehensive and completed without interruption. It can be reported that these objectives were realised in 1965. All food premises in the Borough were visited and inspected at least once between March and October. The premises covered are listed in Table 6, which shows the number of different types of businesses in the district at the end of the year. Apart from assessing hygiene standards, the survey also served as a means of checking that premises are properly registered and licenced under the Regulations dealing with the sale of milk, ice-cream and other specified foods.

The survey showed that the general standard of hygiene being maintained by food traders was reasonably good, and although numerous contraventions of the Regulations were found, many of them were of a minor nature and could be dealt with by informal approaches to the traders concerned. Later inspections have shown that good progress has been made in putting right the defects found on the first visits.

Now that the foundations of a proper inspection system have been laid it is hoped future staffing resources will allow regular visits and inspections to be made to ensure that improved conditions brought about by the survey are not allowed to deteriorate. The annual incidence of food poisoning shows the continuing need to improve food hygiene standards and practices. The report of the Public Health Laboratory Service discloses that in 1964 there were 9,975 notified cases of food poisoning in England and Wales, 19 of which were fatal. Analysis of 421 separate outbreaks of food poisoning showed that three out of four occurred in the summer, the worst month being August and the best February and March. Out of 100 outbreaks in which a particular type of food was found to be responsible, 77 were associated with cooked meat or made-up meat products. At this point it is relevant to quote the concluding paragraphs of a recent report to the Minister of Health by the Food Hygiene Advisory Council :

“A widespread effort has been in progress since 1949, which has continued to gain impetus. We are satisfied, from the observations and experience of members of the Council and of the officers of the Ministry of Health, that since the first Food Hygiene Regulations were made in 1955, the general public, and more notably food handlers and designers of retail trade equipment in the food manufacturing and food machinery industries, have been made increasingly aware of the need for high standards of food hygiene. With the convenience foods (i.e. packaged, prepared foods which may, or may not, require cooking) the risks arise mainly from those who have yet to familiarize themselves with the new handling techniques and equipment and need to raise their standards and become accustomed to using the correct methods for handling these foods. There remains, however, a constant need for methods of approach to be reviewed and improved. This process must be continuous and sustained.

We would lay special emphasis on the view, which we fully accept, that the character of the environment plays a most important part in encouraging or discouraging hygienic food habits. We recommend that this view should be brought to the notice of all authorities who can play a part in improving the general environment, where this is likely to influence the standard of hygiene consciousness of the general public, notably in homes, food establishments, schools, public conveniences and public transport vehicles. Good surroundings induce good habits.”

Clean food handling is, of course, as important on food stalls and vehicles as in shops and warehouses. Up to now, Regulations have been rather easier on stall-holders and mobile tradesmen than on occupiers of fixed premises, and it will be interesting to see if this can be remedied by new Regulations which are expected to be issued shortly.

During the year, at the request of the Hospital Authorities, a series of talks on food hygiene, illustrated by films, were given by Health Department staff to personnel employed in Hospital kitchens. These talks were of particular benefit to new employees.

Food traders in the Borough were again generally co-operative in seeking the assistance of Public Health Inspectors in avoiding the sale of unsound food. 135 visits were made for the purpose of examining foodstuffs, resulting in the following goods being rejected, surrendered and destroyed.

Tinned Foods	...	...	...	1046 lbs.
Meat ...	...	...	...	210 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	26 lbs.
Frozen foods	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Fruit juice	...	...	...	168 bottles

The Lancashire County Council acts as the Food and Drugs Authority for the Farnworth district. Officers of the County Health Department are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration and labelling of food, and these officers in collaboration with the local Health Department take samples of food and drugs throughout the district, arranging for analysis and taking appropriate action when necessary. Particulars of samples taken during 1965, together with the results of analysis, are given in Table 7.

The Food and Drugs Act requires premises used for the preparation or manufacture of certain foods to be registered with the Borough Council. At the end of the year there were 32 of these premises registered.

TABLE 6.
NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT
AT THE END OF 1965

TYPE OF BUSINESS	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	99
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	29
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	3
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	43
Bakers and/or confectioners	42
Fried fish shops	23
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	27
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments ...	90

TABLE 7.
ADULTERATION OF FOOD
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1965 :—

Milk	139
Other articles	69

The 69 other articles comprised :—

1 Margarine	1 Distaquaine V-K suspension
1 fresh fruit (apples)	1 Boracic Acid B.P.
1 pork luncheon meat, canned	1 gelatine
1 fresh fruit (pears)	1 cod liver oil capsules
1 dried mixed fruit	1 bacon
1 treacle pudding, canned	1 lard
2 golden raising powder	1 butter
1 suet pudding mixture, unsweetened	1 coffee
1 lemon cheese	1 malt vinegar
1 jelly cream	1 steak in gravy, canned
1 castor oil B.P.	1 salmon spread, jar
1 Hypon tablets	1 rice
3 sweets	1 sultanas
1 Comfrey	1 apricot jam
	1 dried full cream milk

1 Saluric tablets	1 honey
2 portions meat and potato pie	1 apple cider vinegar and honey, concentrated
1 fresh fruit (gooseberries)	1 opened can of tomatoes
1 fresh fruit (blackcurrants)	1 potatoes
1 nuts and fruits	2 ice cream
2 flour confectionery	1 bacon
2 vegetables, canned	2 cooking fat
1 creamed sago milk pudding, canned	1 pickles
2 coffee and chicory extract mixture, dry	2 lemon curd
1 curried chicken and mushroom, canned	1 milk condensed, skimmed, sweetened
1 hot pot, canned	1 milk condensed, special full cream, sweetened
1 hamburgers and vegetables with gravy, canned	5 fruit, dried
1 cleansing herbs	1 portion of a meal

Details are given below of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports.

TYPE OF SAMPLE	RESULTS OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 Distaquaine V-K suspension	Contained 80 milligrams of Phenoxymethyl penicillin in 5 mls. —should contain 125 milligrams in 5 mls.	Further sample obtained
1 informal milk	Contained 1.0% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained
1 portion of meat and potato pie	Contained a Ptinus Tectus Beetle.	Complainant informed and bakery cautioned
1 informal milk	Contained a common daisy flower 13 mm. in diameter (bottle neck 15½ mms. in internal diameter).	Complainant informed and Dairy interviewed
1 informal milk (Channel Islands)	Deficient 2.5% of fat.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained
1 opened can of tomatoes	Contained an unidentifiable dead moth larva.	Complainant and Importers notified
1 flour confectionery	One part of cake's surface was slightly infested with mould of an Aspergillus species.	Complainant informed and Vendor cautioned
1 portion of meat and potato pie	Contained approximately half an earwig.	Complainant informed and bakery interviewed
1 portion of a meal	Contained spent match stick.	Vendor cautioned and complainant informed
1 informal milk	Contained 0.15 parts per hundred thousand of visible dirt of the nature of dung.	Dairy interviewed

HAWKERS

There were six names on the register of Hawkers at the end of 1965, no new registrations being made during the year.

ICE CREAM

Premises used for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream have to be registered with the local authority under the Food and Drugs Act of 1955. At the end of 1965 the numbers registered were as follows :

Manufacturers	2
Dealers	138

Eleven samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

MILK

The issue of licences to produce or sell milk in the Borough is a County Council responsibility, but the local authority retains the duty to keep a register of all milk distributors, including shops selling milk, in the district. At the end of the year there were 162 distributors on the register. There are only three farmers in the district licenced to produce milk.

Sampling of milk from farms and dairies for bacteriological and chemical examination is carried out by officers of the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Nine samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors for bacteriological examination were found to be satisfactory.

Difficulty was experienced in tracing the cause of a series of unsatisfactory samples from a local dairy. Bottles of pasteurised milk produced over a period of several weeks were found to contain small amounts of sediment. Extensive checks were made on the bottle-washing and pasteurising equipment and modifications suggested to the dairy management were carried out. The trouble persisted, however, even after new plant had been installed, and further investigations were made. Subsequently a more efficient filtration system was put into operation and further samples gave satisfactory results.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND MEAT INSPECTION

Regular slaughter of cattle and sheep continued throughout the year at the one licensed private slaughterhouse in the Borough. The carcasses and organs of all animals slaughtered were inspected as soon as possible after slaughter in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations. All the animals killed were of good quality. Little evidence of disease, and no evidence of tuberculosis, was found. Details of the animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease are given in Table 8.

The total number of animals slaughtered in 1965 was the lowest for six years, but this was because fewer sheep were dealt with. The number of cattle killed was well above average ; in fact the through-put of cattle is now almost double what it was six years ago :

	CATTLE		SHEEP		TOTAL
1960	264		1272		1536
1961	344		1294		1638
1962	412		922		1334
1963	362		870		1232
1964	613		923		1536
1965	600		551		1151

Although the slaughterhouse premises are not ideally situated or designed, reasonably good standards of cleanliness and hygiene are kept. In this regard, and in connection with the care of animals awaiting slaughter and the prevention of unnecessary suffering during slaughter, co-operation with the veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture is maintained at all times.

Co-operation between the slaughterhouse occupier and the Inspectors resulted in only occasional meat inspection work having to be done outside normal working hours, although it is impossible to avoid some work at holiday times. There are indications that future legislation may restrict the hours during which slaughtering can be done ; this would make life much easier for meat inspectors generally, especially those working in areas with several large slaughterhouses. There are also signs that arrangements for the inspection of poultry in establishments where large numbers of birds are killed and packed will shortly be improved.

On a few days in October your Public Health Inspectors carried out meat inspection duties at a slaughterhouse in Atherton. This was because of a temporary absence of qualified inspectors in that authority's Health Department, outside assistance being necessary to keep the meat inspection service going.

TABLE 8.
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS
Carcases inspected and incidence of disease

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	600	Nil	Nil	551	Nil
Number inspected	600	Nil	Nil	551	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis :-					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	Nil	Nil	10	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis ...	1.8%	Nil	Nil	1.8%	Nil
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis:—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water which is supplied by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and generally satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Normally, samples of both raw and filtered water are regularly subjected to full bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Special examinations and analysis are made as circumstances require. During 1965, 672 samples of raw water were subjected to bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis and 16 to full chemical analysis in the statutory area of supply. In addition, 1,783 samples of filtered and treated water received bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis and 28 full chemical analysis. Results showed that the filtered and treated water was of a satisfactory quality, B.Coli being absent in 97.03% of the potable water samples tested. All water is treated before passing into supply.

No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. From tests made the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

The public water mains afforded a direct supply to a population of approximately 26,770 persons living in Farnworth. No supply was afforded to dwelling houses by standpipe.

In 1965, 410 yards of 2in., 141 yards of 3in. and 111 yards of 4in. diameter water main were laid to new houses in the Borough.

PUBLIC BATHS

During the year under review admissions to the swimming pool numbered 99,260. 12,233 persons used the slipper baths, including 795 old age pensioners who are admitted at a reduced charge.

Water for the pool is supplied from the town's mains and is subjected to a process of continuous filtration and chlorination. Regular tests are made to ensure a satisfactory residual chlorine content and pH value. Twenty samples of water from the pool were also taken for bacteriological examination ; all were reported to be satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

One waste water closet was converted to the fresh water system during the year, and according to the Department's records there are now only four dwellings in the Borough without separate fresh water closets. One of these is a farm, where connection to the sewer is impracticable and which has to rely on a pail closet. The other three are houses which have waste water closets. Two of these are shortly due for demolition, and efforts are being made to get the third converted to the fresh water system. The total number of fresh water closets in the Borough is estimated at 10,500.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Borough's Cleansing Services are under the control of the Borough Engineer. About 10,500 dustbins are emptied weekly by three teams of collectors.

Action is taken when necessary by the Health Department under the Public Health Acts to require the replacement of defective dustbins. Informal notices served on the owners of property concerned are usually sufficient and no statutory notices were served during the year.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping at Darley. Shortage of covering material and other difficulties have at times prevented ideal control conditions being maintained on the tip. When tipping begins in the near future at a new site in Cemetery Road it is expected that operations will be easier to control.

During the year the tip at Darley was frequently inspected and treated to search out and destroy rat infestations. With considerable quantities of food and vegetable waste being put on the tip regular rodent control is essential.

Industrial waste disposal is becoming more difficult. Much of this used to be burned on the furnaces of the factories where it is produced, but the replacement of hand-fired boilers by automatic heating plant has stopped this and other means of disposal have to be found. Occasionally, nuisance has been caused by the burning of waste material on open ground in factory yards. A more satisfactory arrangement is to call in the services of a commercial waste disposal contractor or to arrange for proper incineration in purpose-built, smokeless equipment.

Many cleansing authorities are now using the paper sack method of household refuse collection. Paper sacks have certain advantages over the traditional metal dustbin; perhaps their use in Farnworth, possibly on a limited experimental scale, will be considered in the future.

SEWERAGE

Virtually all buildings in the town are connected to the sewerage system. Some sewers are old and defective, others are overloaded, and some parts of the system have been affected by subsidence. An extensive scheme of main sewer reconstruction is in hand.

DRAINAGE

Apart from drainage works for new Council houses, which are supervised by the Borough Engineer's Department, all new drainage works and alterations or additions to existing drains are inspected by Health Department staff. Smoke or water tests are applied whenever possible. The number of nuisances caused by defective or badly constructed drains emphasises the need to maintain a high standard of drainage inspection.

During the year, 48-hour notices under Section 17 of the Public Health Act, 1961, were served in two instances requiring owners of property to repair defective drains. In both cases, the necessary work was done by the Corporation and the cost recovered from the owners.

It is being found increasingly difficult to engage contractors for drainage repairs. For this reason, there have been serious delays in getting drainage repairs done even when the owner responsible has authorised the Corporation to engage a contractor to do the work.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Under this heading one can only repeat the dismal comments of previous years—the town's public conveniences are unattractive, lacking in facilities, and suffering constant damage by vandals.

In April the Health Committee were informed that accumulated damage at four conveniences had cost £120 to put right. Only five weeks later, fourteen fresh items of wilful damage, mostly broken windows and fittings, needed attention.

If one can encroach into 1966, it can be reported that at the time of writing, new conveniences at Ellesmere Park have been open to the public for four months. They were provided at the outset with wash-basins, hot and cold water, soap dispensers and paper towels, and the amount of damage and pilfering has been negligible. Significantly, these conveniences are open only during the hours of daylight when Parks Department staff are near at hand. Does this set the future pattern for all the town's conveniences?

DISINFESTATION

From time to time during the year infestations of insects were found in domestic and industrial buildings. They were dealt with by the use of chemical insecticides.

A recurring infestation of cockroaches in a basement defied normal methods of treatment ; as an experiment, use was made of a new type of plastic material which when suspended in the room gives off insecticidal vapour. This method proved to be very successful.

RODENT CONTROL

There were difficulties in this section during the year. Because of resignations and illness, the Department was without a rodent operative for more than half the year, and throughout this period all rodent control work, including surveys, investigations and treatments had to be undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors in addition to their normal work, with occasional help from the operative of a neighbouring authority, to whom we are indebted.

As often happens when resources are strained, the amount of work requiring to be done increased during the year. More than the usual number of requests for treatment were received and more surface infestations were discovered. Altogether 538 treatments were carried out, and nearly 1,800 visits were made by the rodent operative or the Inspectors.

As in previous years, all notifications of surface rat infestations were attended to as speedily as possible, and where necessary, treatment was followed up by action by the Public Health Inspectors to ensure that drainage defects and other sources of rats were dealt with. Particular attention was given to unsealed drains on empty property, demolition sites, filled-in mill lodges, and broken ventilators. It often requires a great deal of patience and ingenuity to get at and destroy the source of an infestation.

When infestations are traced to British Railways or National Coal Board property, treatment is done in collaboration with operatives from the undertaking concerned.

Previous reports have stated that the main source of rats is the town's sewer system, and that the most effective way of reducing the number of surface infestations is by destroying rats in the sewers. For a number of years it has not been possible to do much sewer treatment, and this unsatisfactory situation was not made any

easier in 1965 by the labour difficulties already mentioned. A report on the position was put to the Council in November, and as a result it was decided to engage a specialist firm to carry out sewer treatment work, using the latest and most effective poison recommended by the Government Department concerned. By the end of the year arrangements had been made for this treatment to begin early in 1966, and it is hoped that it will be possible in due course to treat all the town's sewers by this method. It is confidently expected that the results of an intensive treatment on these lines will justify the expense involved.

Details of inspections and treatments carried out by the Rodent Operative during 1965 are given in Table 9.

TABLE 9.
RODENT CONTROL
Action during the year 1965

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Dwelling houses	Agri-cultural	All Others	TOTAL
Number of properties in the district	9024	5	1635	10,664
Number of properties inspected	577	Nil	84	661
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-				
Rats :	407	Nil	59	466
Mice :	55	Nil	17	72
Number of infested properties treated	462	Nil	76	538

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 133 factories. Of these 128 are provided with mechanical power.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Ministry of Labour, are to be found in Table 10.

TABLE 10.
FACTORIES ACT, 1961
PART I OF THE ACT

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1965.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occu- piers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	5	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	128	79	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	4	Nil	Nil
Total ...	135	84	Nil	Nil

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	Nil	2	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	3	3	Nil	3	Nil

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making paper hats	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sewing (aprons)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Knitting	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The purpose of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act of 1963 is to require proper standards of accommodation and care in places where domestic animals are boarded out by their owners. The occupiers of such premises are required to be licenced under the Act, and licences are only granted where conditions are satisfactory.

Two applications for licences were made during the year. In one case the premises concerned were satisfactory and the licence was granted. In the other case, there was doubt about the suitability of the accommodation provided and the facilities for isolating sick animals. The advice of a veterinary surgeon was obtained, and following his report the applicant was informed that certain modifications to his premises would be needed before a licence could be granted.

PET SHOPS

These premises have to be registered under the Pet Animals Act of 1951. The Act requires satisfactory standards of accommodation and cleanliness to be kept. There were six of these premises registered at the end of 1965, all of which were visited during the year. Special care is taken when inspecting pet shops to ensure that occupiers provide adequate warmth for animals and birds during the winter months and that overcrowding is avoided.

One new application for registration made during the year was refused because the conditions under which animals were likely to be kept were not considered to be satisfactory.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963, which makes provision for the health, welfare and safety of workers in offices, shops and similar places of employment, requires the registration of all premises covered by the Act. The statutory register of Farnworth premises was completed by the end of 1964 and was brought up to date during 1965 by the addition of 21 premises making a total of 272 premises in the Borough to which the provisions of the Act apply. The total number of persons employed in these premises is 1,338.

The demands of other work have not allowed inspections under the Act to be made on a large scale ; nevertheless 137 visits were made in 1965 and 41 of the larger premises were given a full inspection. This is a fair start on a formidable task.

Certain kinds of premises covered by the Act are inspected by H.M. Factory Inspectorate, and on several occasions during the year joint meetings were arranged with local and regional Factory Inspectors to discuss problems of mutual interest. These meetings are of great value in administering the Act.

Details of premises registered and persons employed are given in Tables 11 and 12.

TABLE 11.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

	Offices	Retail shops	Whole-sale shops, ware-houses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year.	42	178	17	33	2
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.	1	37	1	2	Nil
Number of exemptions current at end of year:					
Space (S.5.(2))	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temperature (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.9)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Washing facilities (S.10)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE 12.

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	288
Retail Shops	676
Wholesale departments, warehouses	104
Catering establishments open to public	207
Canteens	10
Fuel storage depots	53
Total	1338
Total Males	554
Total Females	784

NUISANCES

Several items coming under this heading are worthy of comment.

Early in the year part of an empty factory building was taken over as a store for about 25 tons of potatoes. The potatoes began to decay and the owner was unable to dispose of them. They became a source of nuisance to the neighbourhood, giving rise to swarms of flies and objectionable smells which filled surrounding houses and brought many complaints. With the agreement of the owner of the building the potatoes were removed by Corporation vehicles and buried on the tip. The building was then treated with insecticide and the nuisance abated.

A resident of a housing estate complained, with some justification, about the fouling of footpaths on the estate by dogs. This usually occurs when dogs are out without their owners. When families are out all day and their dogs are left to wander the streets, often in packs, it is not surprising that pavements are fouled in built-up districts with few grassed areas. The fouling of pavements constitutes an offence under the Corporation's Byelaws, but the difficulties of enforcement are obvious.

Several complaints concerning pigeons were dealt with during the year. Pigeons can be a considerable nuisance, roosting at the top of buildings and fouling the ground underneath and anything that comes between. They are encouraged by the misplaced benevolence of people who feed them by throwing bread scraps into the street, a practice which is also conducive to surface rat infestations.

Unoccupied or abandoned houses are frequently a source of nuisance. This has been particularly noticeable recently as a result of the increasing number of houses being vacated prior to demolition for slum-clearance or road construction. Windows get broken, doors forced open, drains are unsealed, and the houses quickly become targets for vandals, dumps for rubbish, and harbourage for vermin. It is often very difficult to take action to get the owners of these houses to seal them up and make them inaccessible.

The number of scrap-yards in the town seems to be increasing. There is a need for businesses of this kind, and if they are properly run on suitable sites they can be quite innocuous. But often they are untidy eyesores, sometimes polluting the air with smoke from burning rubber, plastic, and other unwanted materials. Rubbish fires on demolition sites can also be a nuisance.

Unauthorised tipping of rubbish on spare land has always been a problem, and in the year under review several complaints were dealt with. If the Corporation could offer a free collection service for old beds, furniture, prams and similar discarded articles too big to go in the dustbin there might be less of this dumping.

During the year several complaints of noise nuisance have been investigated. The most persistent was caused by dust-extraction plant at a factory, sited in the open only a short distance from houses. The firm concerned were persuaded to put rubber mountings under the plant and to build a baffle wall between the plant and the houses ; this simple expedient reduced the noise considerably.

STAFF

In all but two months of the year the Department was fully staffed, and for a change it was possible to extend the scope of operations beyond routine day-to-day work, to which we have been so often restricted. Unfortunately, the burden of rodent control work falling on the Public Health Inspectors in the period we were without a rodent operative prevented full advantage being taken of this improved staffing position.

With additional duties coming to the Department year by year it is essential to utilise staff resources as efficiently as possible, and within the limits of a small establishment every effort is made to allocate work to the best advantage. For example, it has been found that clerical staff can be trained to do more administrative and technical work, taking over from Inspectors at an earlier stage the preparation of slum-clearance and other reports. Clerical staff have also taken over air pollution recording work and routine visits to premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. To some extent this relieves the Public Health Inspectors of clerical and routine jobs and allows them to spend more time on useful work outside.

In June the pupil Public Health Inspector completed two years training and passed the intermediate qualifying examination. He is now past the half way stage to qualification and is taking on more responsible duties, thereby adding to the Department's technical staff resources.

The total number of visits recorded by the Public Health Inspectors as shown in Table 13 increased from 5,116 in 1964 to 7,808 in the year under review. The increase was spread across the whole range of duties, with a few exceptions ; there were considerably more visits in connection with housing repairs, drainage, nuisances and food premises, but less than average slum-clearance visits.

As befits a Health Department, few working days were lost through sickness during the year.

TABLE 13.

VISITS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING
1965

PUBLIC HEALTH							
Repair of houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	778
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Accumulations and tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drainage visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	584
Drain tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Keeping of animals and birds	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	313
HOUSING							
Individual unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Cleared sites or demolition in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Housing survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
FOOD AND DRUGS							
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
Meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	263
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Restaurants, cafes and canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Market stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	585
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ice cream samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Inspection of unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
FACTORIES							
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Offices, shops etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
CLEAN AIR ACT							
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Industrial air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Domestic air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Measurement of air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	338
MISCELLANEOUS							
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Public Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1134
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	259

